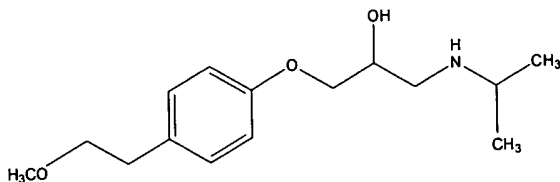


## REMARKS

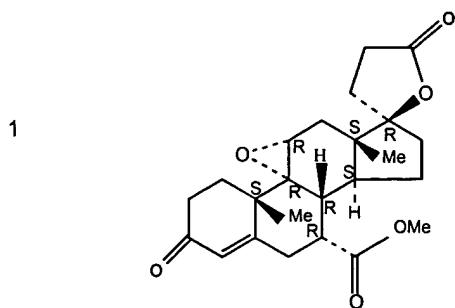
### Election/Restriction

Claims 1-51 are pending. The Office is requiring Applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution of pending claims drawn to a combination comprising an aldosterone receptor antagonist and a beta-adrenergic antagonist.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, the species metoprolol as the beta-adrenergic antagonist recited, for example, in Table 2 at page 20 and at page 21, line 9. Metoprolol is 1-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)-phenoxy]-3-[(1-methylethyl)amino]-2-propanol, and can exist in several salt forms, e.g. tartrate (CAS 56392-17-7) and succinate (CAS 98418-47-4), as well as neutral (CAS 37350-58-6), as shown below:



Applicants also provisionally elect, with traverse, the species "eplerenone" as the aldosterone receptor antagonist recited, for example, at page 29, lines 26-34, and described as Compound #1 in Table I at page 17:



Pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, methyl ester, (7α,11α,17β)-

Applicants' reasons for traverse are the following:

Each of the pending claims is directed to therapeutic combinations comprising an aldosterone receptor antagonist and a beta-adrenergic antagonist. A search of one combination likely will overlap with a search of the other combinations. Accordingly, it would not be unduly burdensome on the Office to collectively search the combinations.

For these reasons the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

As requested in the Office Action, Applicants further list the following group of pending claims that read on the elected species:

Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 36, 38, 42-46 and 48-51.

The elected Claims 1-7, 9-11, 13, 36, 38, 42-46 and 48-51 should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance of these claims is requested. Applicants respectfully request a five-month extension of time to and including May 11, 2003 for filing a response to the November 12, 2002 Office Action in this matter. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the \$1,970.00 fee for the requested five-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, together with any fees that may be required during the entire pendency of this application, to Deposit Account No. 19-1025.

Respectfully submitted,

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